



THE BEACON

**INFORMING NARFE MEMBERS
FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST**

April 2021 - June 2021

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Henry Brattlie
President, NCNARFE



Spring Is Here

Spring 2021 Is Here! NCNARFE is Alive and Getting Better! I want to talk to you about a number of things. To assist you in reading this, I will number each topic.

1. **COVID19:** It looks like we are finally getting a handle on COVID-1919. It is still out there, but hospitalization numbers are decreasing in NC. As one of those who had a minor reaction to the second shot, I can tell you that I am still very GLAD I have received it!

2. **CHAPTER MEETINGS:** Many of us have been missing out on our Chapter Meetings. We not only get the latest information, but we have a common bond of friendship and help from the other members we know. In the meantime, we are providing virtual chapter meetings on our NCNARFE.org website. You can go to NCNARFE.org, select Virtual Meetings in the red top banner, and pick a chapter meeting to view. You do not have to be a chapter member to watch the available videos. Join the fun today!

3. **TOLL FREE CALL-IN FOR VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETINGS:** Want to join a virtual chapter meeting? NCNARFE has virtual meetings using both ZOOM and GoToMeeting. NCNARFE now has a TOLL FREE Dial-In for the GoToMeeting sessions. This means that if you do not have internet capability, you can still call in from your home phone and listen to a chapter meeting at NO COST to you.

a. NCNARFE Raleigh Chapter Meeting first Tuesday each Month
11:00 AM

- i. You can dial in using your phone.
- ii. United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073
- One-touch: tel: +18773092073,,601463125#
- iii. Access Code: 601-463-125

b. NCNARFE Rocky Mount Chapter second Tuesday each Month
12:30 PM

- i. You can dial in using your phone.
- ii. United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679

- One-touch: tel:+18668994679,,946353821#

- iii. Access Code: 946-353-821

c. NCNARFE Salisbury Chapter Meeting 3rd Monday each Month
1:00 PM

- i. You can also dial in using your phone.
(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)
- ii. United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679

- One-touch: tel: +18668994679,,578594397#

- iii. Access Code: 578-594-397

4. NCNARFE 2021 **FREE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING** May 12, 2021 (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM)

- a. FREE Registration starts March 15, 2021
- b. GREAT Speakers!
- c. Over \$700 in prizes for registered attendees. Includes \$250 Grand Prize given by Platinum Sponsor BCBS of NC.
- d. **CLICK Here to Register:** Registration (gotowebinar.com)
- e. **JOIN OUR GREAT EVENT!!!**

IN THIS ISSUE: SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Statewide Officer Reports.....	2-4
Financial Statement/Expense Report/Proposed Budget.....	4-5
Region X Report.....	5
Appointed Board Member Reports.....	6-13
Coming Events.....	13
NC NARFE Map and Chapter Presidents List.....	14
2020-2021 NC Federation Board.....	15

NARFE References

Toll-free Legislative Hotline (24 Hours) — (877) 217-8234
Legislative Action Center — www.narfe.org
NARFE Toll-free — (800) 627-3994
NC NARFE Service Officer — (910) 619-0658

The Beacon

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2020 NARFE Balloting

L. Thomas Jennings
Immediate Past President



- Federation Strategic Planning

Work of the Federation Strategic Planning Committee

In December, President Henry Brattlie appointed a new Strategic Planning Committee to review our 2017 Strategic Plan and make recommendations to guide the Federation forward as we move into NARFE'S second century. The members of the committee are Pat Brannin, Area I & II VP; Vivian Vair, Alzheimer's Coordinator; Charles Talley, Executive VP; Dwight Weaver, PR Officer; and yours truly as Committee Chair. The committee has met for four two-hour sessions so far, all done electronically. We are reviewing the number/configuration of federation areas, taking into account congressional district boundaries. We are focusing particularly on the role of Area Vice Presidents and how their duties can be better aligned to support legislative advocacy and membership recruitment/retention.

Other areas under discussion include strengthening the legislative and communications committees as standing committees, and possibly developing an editorial board to assist the editor in strengthening the mission focus and forward-looking content of *The Beacon*.

We reviewed action items from the 2017 Strategic Plan and have determined those that have been accomplished, those that are no longer relevant, and those that should be continued. These will be covered in our final report.

On February 6, 2021, I submitted the first committee report for consideration at the February 10th Board Meeting. This report

included several recommendations for proposed board action. The first was for the board to direct development of a mission/project-focused budget for FY 2022-23. This action, approved in the 2017 plan, has not yet been implemented. This new budget approach will help direct our resources to mission priorities and will support and reward innovative approaches and improvements in federation operations.

Our committee recognized the need to improve orientation and training for new board members and new chapter officers. So, we recommended and the board approved federation development of applicable training/orientation videos. We suggested that this should be prioritized for completion this fiscal year. Development of well-written and produced videos will improve the quality, consistency, and efficiency of officer training.

The final recommendation in our report was for the Federation Board to propose a bylaw change for the 2021 ballot to designate all board members as voting members. In our review of the federation organizational structure, it was clear to the committee that enabling all board members to fully participate as voting members is in the best interest of the Federation. The Board previously approved this proposed bylaw change and submitted it to the membership at the 2013 Annual Convention. While it received a strong majority vote it did not reach the two-third's majority required for adoption. Since that time, each federation president and executive board has encouraged active input and participation by all board members. Giving each member a vote will ensure that all board officers can fully take part and have a formal voice in all board decisions. The Board approved this recommendation, and our Secretary, Dave Phillips, forwarded it to our Bylaws Committee.

The Federation Bylaws Committee, chaired by Chris Huber, (Area III) and with members Theron Rumsey, Areas I & II; Paul Carew, Area IV; and Carolyn Bronson, Area V, reviewed and unanimously approved this proposal. We are most appreciative of their support. The amendment will be included on the 2021 ballot. I served as the advisor for the Bylaws Committee, and I would be happy to answer any questions that members may have about this proposed amendment.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Charles Talley
NCNARFE Executive VP



- Your Credit Report

Your Credit Report!

This is a message from Jeff Trout, President, Uwharrie Bank Mortgage, to me that I feel is important to share with you.

"I wanted to send you a friendly reminder to obtain a free copy of your credit report by going to AnnualCreditReport.com, the official website established through the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Other sites may have similar names, such as "FreeCreditReport.com," but they actually come with a price.

Remember these tips:

Try to have credit account info handy before logging on. For security purposes, you will be asked to verify information that can include anything from existing loans to prior addresses. If you have your last credit report available, that's ideal.

Get a report from all three repositories. They are: Experian, Equifax, and Transunion.

As soon as you've accessed each of the reports, print or save a copy. If you close the window with the report open, you'll have to wait one year to return to that bureau's report.

Review your reports carefully. If you find errors, please give me a call. We can talk about the potential impacts—good and bad—of credit disputes.

You may purchase your "credit score" as an option. If you opt for this, keep in mind these scores can differ from those typically used by creditors.

I highly recommend that you take advantage of AnnualCreditReport.com every year as one additional step in protecting yourself from identity theft and to make sure your credit is in good order for the next time you need to apply for new credit, insurance, or sometimes, even new employment."

THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Dave Phillips
NC NARFE Secretary



• Board Meeting Highlights

Highlights of February NCNARFE Executive Board Meeting

The NCNARFE Executive Board held its quarterly meeting on February 10, 2021. The meeting was conducted electronically using Go to Meeting. President Henry Brattlie declared a quorum present.

1. Bill Shackelford, Region X Vice-President presented his report.
 - a. NARFE Headquarters is still not fully operational as the Virginia Governor extended the Stay-At-Home Order through the end of February due to the pandemic.
 - b. Details regarding LEGCon and the centennial gala are still not finalized because of the pandemic. A decision will be forthcoming as to whether it will be held in person, virtually, or as a hybrid of in-person and virtual.
 - c. The Regional Vice President (RVP) positions have been reclassified. The RVP's are now considered contractors rather than exempted positions in NARFE. The National Executive Board (NEB) plans further discussion on this action.
 - d. The realtor contract for the sale of the NARFE Headquarters Building expired in August 2020. No acceptable offers were received. The NEB approved a motion to have the NARFE President appoint a committee to explore alternatives to the sale of the building and report its recommendations to the NEB. No due date has been set to report to the NEB.
 - e. NARFE-PAC funds are distributed because of the work of the lobbyists and the local people in the Federation. Candidates are given distributions based on their support of issues important to NARFE and not based on partisan issues.
2. During the period of July – December 2020 NCNARFE donated \$8,515 to Alzheimer's Research. North Carolina is the 3rd largest contributor in the country. \$13,700,196 has been raised toward the goal of \$14 million. Chapters are encouraged to ask members to donate to Alzheimer's Research. All donations should be sent to the NCNARFE Alzheimer's Coordinator – Vivian Vair.
3. Chapters should remember that Per Capita dues need be sent to the Treasurer, Sam Crain, by February 28. AVP's will be contacting Chapters that are delinquent in paying their Per Capita.

4. President Brattlie is working with the Havelock-Cherry Point Chapter as it proceeds towards closure.
5. The Area Vice-Presidents (AVP) are meeting with several of their chapters virtually. Some of the AVPs are serving on the Revenue Generation and Strategic Planning Committees.
6. Chapter Presidents must ensure that they let the Membership Coordinator, Carolyn London, know who their Membership Chairs are or at least a point of contact for membership issues and communication as the need arises. A Guide to NARFE Membership is being developed for the field and is under review by the NCNARFE President.
7. The board approved an NCNARFE Legislation Plan to be sent out to the membership. It outlines the NCNARFE legislative priorities for 2021. It is based on the list of NARFE priorities for the 117th Congress was published in the January/February issue of the NARFE Magazine. The National Legislative Officer, Robert Allen, also encouraged members to become sustainers for NARFE-PAC. A sustainer designation can be achieved for as little as a \$10/month donation.
8. NCNARFE continues its support of the extension of the Bailey Settlement. The 4th Branch is a coalition of organizations working toward extending the Bailey Settlement. Several members of NCNARFE are active in the 4th Branch. Robert Allen is the Federal Co-Chair for the 4th Branch. An icon to sign up to become a member of the 4th Branch is on the ncnarfe.org website. Membership is free.
9. Peter Eckhoff, the NCNARFE Webmaster, is working with Johann DeCastro, NARFE Senior VP, Finance & Administration, and RVP Shackelford to identify and correct problems with the Automated Management Systems (AMS) data.
10. Plans are being made for the 2021 NCNARFE Annual Meeting. It will be held virtually as a webinar on May 12, 2021. Members must preregister to attend the webinar. Information will be published soon on ncnarfe.org.
11. The board approved the updated strategic plan that contains several recommendations:
 - a. A mission/project-based budget format to be implemented with the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
 - b. Training/orientation videos to be developed for new Board members as well as Chapter officers. A video will also be developed to welcome new members to NARFE.
 - c. A proposed bylaw change to allow all members of the Board to be voting members.
12. The Revenue Generation Committee presented proposals on how to increase non-dues revenue through advertisements in the Beacon and webinar sponsorships.
13. President Brattlie reported that he is in the process of finishing up the graphics for new Chapter banners.

FEDERATION TREASURER REPORT

Sam Crain
NC Federation Treasurer

- Upcoming Annual Meeting



Well, it is that time again when we are approaching the North Carolina Annual Meeting. I hope everyone is getting excited about us meeting again this year although it will once again not be like we used to meet. With the COVID -19 Pandemic still causing social

distancing we will have to meet virtually again this year. The date is May 12, 2021, so please mark your calendars for an all-day session. We are in the process of finalizing some exciting speakers.

As your Federation Treasurer, I am excited to tell you that you will have an opportunity to vote on the Federation Budget for 2021-2022. This budget is included in this month's Beacon for your review and will also be on the ballot for your approval, hopefully. It will be obvious that we have not spent much money this year because of the restrictions with the pandemic, but we are optimistic that next year we will be able to be back to some resemblance of normalcy.

I have also included the Financial Reports that are generally available for your review. My goal is to be transparent with our financial situation.

Thanks again for your support.

NARFE - NORTH CAROLINA FEDERATION FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

QUARTERS 1, 2 & 3 from August 1, 2020 thru February 28, 2021

BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND (ALL ACCTS.)

	CHECKING	MM	
	\$46,137.92	\$21,032.98	\$67,170.90
Interest from Money Market		\$1.06	
INCOME:			
10% Funds from National Headquarters		\$7,891.86	
Per Capita from Chapters		\$3,243.47	
Funds for Ads in the Beacon		\$0.00	
Funds from Closing Chapters		\$2,599.29	
Funds from Virginia Chapter		\$181.44	
Funds donated for new Banners		\$1,500.00	
TOTAL INCOME			\$15,417.12
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR			\$82,588.02

EXPENSES:

Distribution of Virginia Funds		\$120.96	
Mileage			
Meals			
Lodging			
Supplies/Services			
Postage		\$55.00	
New Banners Expenses			
2021 Annual Meeting Expenses			
Beacon Newspaper		\$2,616.64	
Insurance		\$100.00	
Membership Supplies			
Region X Conference			
Computer Pgrms		\$665.47	
10% Fund Expense			
CDL Reimbursement			
New Mbrs & Dues Withholding Rebates		\$90.00	
Badges for New Officers		\$144.30	
Ballot & Teller(Election Expenses)		\$11.25	
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$3,803.62

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND (ALL ACCTS.)

	CHECKING	MM	
	\$57,750.36	\$21,034.04	\$78,784.40
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR			\$82,588.02

Signed **Sam Crain**, Treasurer Date **2/28/21**

NARFE - NORTH CAROLINA FEDERATION PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 TO BE VOTED ON BY BALLOT AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING

	2021/2022 BUDGET
10% FUNDS	\$16,500.00
PER CAPITA	\$4,000.00
NEW BANNERS	\$1,500.00
CLOSED CHAPTERS	\$1,998.00
MONEY MARKET INT	\$2.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$24,000.00
OFFICER	2021/2022 BUDGET
PRESIDENT	\$1,880.00
EXECUTIVE VP	\$1,400.00
SECRETARY	\$600.00
TREASURER	\$500.00
A1/2 VICE PRES	\$300.00
A 3 VICE PRES	\$950.00
A 4 VICE PRES	\$100.00
A 5 VICE PRES	\$50.00
A 6 VICE PRES	\$700.00
NAT LEG	\$700.00
NARFE/PAC	\$200.00
STATE LEG	\$700.00
MEMB COR	\$600.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS	\$400.00
SERVICE OFF	\$500.00
ALZHEIMERS CO	\$500.00
EDITOR	\$400.00
WEB SITE COR	\$800.00
PAST PRESIDENT	\$550.00
BALLOT & TELLER	\$1,700.00
MAILING BALLOTS	\$1,900.00
NEWSPAPER	\$6,000.00
INSURANCE	\$100.00
ANNUAL MEETING	\$0.00
COMPUTER PGM	\$670.00
10% FUND EXP	\$400.00
MEMBERSHIP	\$500.00
SPECIAL PRJTS	\$0.00
NEW MBR INCENT I	\$500.00
DW PROJECT	\$100.00
CDL REIMBURSE	\$100.00
BADGES/ NEW MBRS	\$145.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$55.00
CLOSED CHAPTERS	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$24,000.00

NARFE - NORTH CAROLINA FEDERATION
Expense Report for Quarters 1, 2 & 3 from August 1, 2020 thru February 28, 2021

OFFICER	MILEAGE	MEALS	LODGING	SUPPLIES-COPIES	POSTAGE	2021 ANNUAL MEETING	REGION X CONFERENCE	NEW MBR/DW PROJECT	NEWSPAPER	MISC	10% FUND EXP	TOTAL	2020/2021 BUDGET	BUDGET BALANCE
PRESIDENT												\$0.00	\$1,880.00	\$1,880.00
EXECUTIVE VP												\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
SECRETARY												\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
TREASURER					\$55.00							\$55.00	\$500.00	\$445.00
A1/2 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
A 3 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$950.00	\$950.00
A 4 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
A 5 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
A 6 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
NAT LEG												\$0.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
NARFE/PAC												\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
STATE LEG												\$0.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
MEMBERSHIP COR												\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS												\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
SERVICE OFFICER												\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
ALZHEIMERS CO												\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
EDITOR												\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
WEB SITE MASTER												\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
PAST PRESIDENT												\$0.00	\$550.00	\$550.00
BALLOT & TELLER										\$11.25		\$11.25	\$1,700.00	\$1,688.75
MAILING BALLOTS												\$0.00	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
NEWSPAPER									\$2,616.64			\$2,616.64	\$6,000.00	\$3,383.36
INSURANCE									\$100.00			\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
ANNUAL MEETING												\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
COMPUTER PRGMS									\$665.47			\$665.47	\$670.00	\$4.53
10% FUND EXP												\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
MEMBERSHIP												\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS												\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEW MBR INCENT I								\$40.00				\$40.00	\$500.00	\$460.00
DW PROJECT								\$50.00				\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
CDL Reimbursement												\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
New Member Badges										\$144.30		\$144.30	\$145.00	\$0.70
MISCELLANEOUS												\$0.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
TOTALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$2,616.64	\$921.02	\$0.00	\$3,682.66	\$24,000.00	\$20,317.34
												\$3,682.66		\$20,317.34

Region X NEWS

William "Bill" Shackelford
Region X Vice President



- **A NARFE Update**

I hope that my column finds all NARFE members in Region X in good health and not affected by the current pandemic. This has been a very long and difficult year for us, bringing changes in many aspects of our personal lives.

A decision was made to cancel/postpone all 2020-2021 National Executive Board (NEB) meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Center for Disease Control provided guidance against in-person gatherings and certain restrictive measures need to be taken to prevent further spread of the virus. Cancellation/postponements of NEB meetings aligns with these restrictive measures. As a result, NEB meetings have been held virtually and limited in length due to COVID-19 pandemic related time constraints.

It should be noted that any NARFE member may attend any NEB meeting as an observer. Future NEB meetings will be held electronically until a determination is made that conditions indicate that face-to-face meetings are safe enough to be held. Electronic access will be provided in either event. Member comments should be directed by e-mail to NARFE Headquarters staff.

Our federations and chapters have also been impacted. Some

chapters are not meeting because their meeting places are closed due to the guidelines that local jurisdictions have imposed. The pandemic has forced many chapters and federations to conduct online meetings since face-to-face contact was restricted. These virtual meetings have affected a large number of our members who are not computer literate. Please take the time and make an effort to stay in close contact with your chapter members and make sure they are aware of chapter activities.

Nevertheless, NARFE operations have continued in one form or another providing support and guidance to the members. While COVID-19 has created a new NARFE organization, throughout this difficult year our dedicated NARFE Headquarters staff has continued to provide support to individuals, chapters, and federations, sometimes working from their offices but often from their homes during shutdowns. Current information was made available through the monthly NARFE magazine, on the NARFE Homepage, and daily Advocacy News Clips. These sources of information have been made available to you on a regular basis even during the pandemic, so remember that NARFE will always ensure that members have the most current information regarding your pay and benefits.

The NARFE advocacy staff is available to speak at your 2021 federation or chapter virtual meetings. Simply send a request directly to Marsha Padilla-Goad at mgoad@narfe.org to reserve the day and time of the event.

The NARFE Advocacy Program for the 117th Congress has been rolled-out and is available on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. This would also be an appropriate time for a reminder to everyone about our NARFE-PAC procedures. Major items of the Legislative Plan include:

NARFE Update /Continued on page 6

- Oppose any cuts to earned federal retirement and health benefits
- Support market rate increases to federal pay rates/Oppose federal employee compensation cuts
- Support reform or repeal of the WEP and GPO
- Revitalize the federal workforce
- Support more accurate COLAs for federal retirees
- Ensure postal reform bills protect postal retiree health benefits
- Support improved integration of Medicare With the FEHB program
- Support COVID-19 relief provisions for the federal community

For more information, please contact NARFE’s advocacy department at advocacy@narfe.org.

Final details are still being made concerning the Legislative Conference (LEGcon21) currently scheduled for June 21-23 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. It is expected that LEGcon21 will be a hybrid event. The number of face-to-face attendees will be limited. No criteria have been set with regards to who would be allowed to attend. There will be no advocacy day on Capitol Hill. Training events will be live-streamed and also recorded and archived on the NARFE website. There will be a separate registration fee for each category, but final costs have not been set.

Planning for the NARFE Centennial Gala is under way. At the present time, the Gala is scheduled for the evening of June 21 and will be held at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. The challenges/restrictions associated with COVID-19 are presenting the same issues as LEGcon21 and final details are still being developed. NARFE Headquarters will release a decision on the Centennial Gala as soon as possible.

Please stay safe, wear your masks, and socially distance until we are 100% confident that the pandemic is under complete control. I hope that 2021 is a great year for you, your family and NARFE.

STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICER REPORT

John Allis
State Legislative Officer



- A Bailey Possibility???

Can Bailey Expansion Pass this Year?

This may be the year that Bailey can be expanded to all military, federal, state and local government retirees in North Carolina! This year, bills have been filed in both the NC Senate and House. The Senate bill is S4 and has 10 sponsors (7-R, 3-D); the House bill is H52 and has six sponsors (all R). Other Democrats in both chambers have previously expressed their support for the goals of this legislation. There appears to be greater support this year for this issue than in previous legislatures. Both bills go by the title, “Equal Tax Treatment of Gov’t Employees,” although the bills are not identical. The 4th Branch and NARFE support both bills. Either will fully cover all government retirees in NC.

For those unfamiliar with it, Bailey allows government retirement benefits to be free from state tax. In 1999, the NC State Supreme Court decided the case referred to as Bailey, but that included two related suits by Emory and Patton

(a NARFE member). The decision did not allow federal retirees to be taxed differently from NC state and local government retirees. The result is that all government retirees who were vested in their retirement systems by Aug. 12, 1989 would not have their retirement benefits taxed by the state of NC. Subsequently, the Legislature changed the law to tax everyone not covered by the Bailey decision, creating two classes of government retirees. It is this situation that the 4th Branch (a coalition of government employee organizations) has been working to correct for several years.

The 4th Branch needs the support of the individual members of its constituent organizations. Two years ago, more than 50 members of several of the 4th Branch organizations visited legislator’s offices to lobby for the then current bill. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, that will not be possible this year. The 4th Branch is considering a mass email campaign, where members email legislators all on the same day. The more emails sent, the greater the effect. Therefore, if you have not previously signed up with the 4th Branch (or your email address has changed), do so now. Then you will be contacted when it is time to take action. The 4th Branch, like NARFE, keeps email addresses strictly within the organization.

You may sign up with the 4th Branch on the web site, www.4thbranchnc.org. The site can also be reached from the NC NARFE site, www.ncnarfe.org, by clicking on the 4th Branch logo (scroll well down the page).

Remember, too, if you have a TSP account, withdrawals from it are free from state income tax under Bailey. However, if you roll the account to an IRA, withdrawals are taxable.

COVID-19

With the approval for emergency use of the Johnson & Johnson

Bailey Expansion /Continued on page 7



(J&J) vaccine, there are now three vaccines available in North Carolina and the supply is increasing rapidly. Everyone, but especially those over 65 or with a pre-existing condition, should get the first vaccine available to them. Do not be put off by the reported lower efficacy of the J&J vaccine. It was tested in humans in Britain and South Africa when those newer strains were present, while the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were tested earlier, before their appearance. Laboratory studies indicate the latter two vaccines are probably going to be less effective against those strains as well. However, all three vaccines prevent serious illness and hospitalization for the newer strains. Even after you are vaccinated, it will still be necessary for several more months to mask and keep your distance in public, and wash hands often.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Carolyn London
NCNARFE Membership Coordinator



• Chapter Membership Chairs

As I mentioned in the last issue of the BEACON, we rely heavily on Chapter Membership Chairs for recruitment and retention of members in their respective chapters and the NC Federation. With that in mind when I searched for information on the designation of Membership Chairs of chapters I was challenged with identifying who actually served in these roles. In collaboration with Chapter Presidents, Area VPs, the Membership Committee, and other leaders I developed the list below. Please review and update your OF-7's and keep them current. This will be helpful as we reach out to the various chapters with membership updates, training, and guidance. Either Chapter Presidents or Secretaries can do this and if you need assistance let me know. We in the Federation want to provide as much support to you as we can. Please let us know what you need to better perform your roles.

I have developed a "Guide to NARFE Membership" that outlines the types of membership, who is eligible to join, and the new dues structure. It will be available to you once the Executive Board approves it.

In the meantime continue your great efforts in recruitment and retention of NARFE members and persevere. Stay safe and healthy. Thank you for all for NARFE.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS

0105 CHARLOTTE - MS. GWEN S. AUSTIN
PHONE: (704) 846-1945
E-MAIL: NO EMAIL ADDRESS
3700 BOUNTY COURT
MATTHEWS, NC 2814-9504

0192 RALEIGH – MR. LYNWOOD B. CHEATHAM
PHONE: (919) 876-1850
E-MAIL: LCHEAT3605 27604-1615@AOL.COM
3605 CAROLYN DRIVE
RALEIGH, NC 27604-1615

0211 PIEDMONT TRIAD – MR. J.J. LIEBERMAN

PHONE: (336) 545-7923
E-MAIL: HERBERT1296@ATT.NET
1500 WORTHINGTON PLACE GREENSBORO, NC 27410-2860
0214 HENDERSONVILLE – MR. RALPH G. MILLER
PHONE: (828) 279-121
E-MAIL: JERCARMILLER@GMAIL.COM
222 RAINTREE DRIVE
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Chapter Membership /Continued on page 8

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0804 WASHINGTON – MR. BARRY A. BECHMAN
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1530 PITT COUNTY-GREENVILLE – MS. PAULA F. KERMON
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National Legislative Officer

Robert Allen
National Legislative Officer

- **NARFE LEGCon21**
- **2021-2022 NC Legislative Plan**



NARFE Legislative Conference 2021

NARFE will hold its biennial Legislative Conference June 21-22 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. LEGCon is the time when we can hear congressional representatives on topics of concern to us as NARFE members and advocates. Planning is underway but, because of the pandemic, face-to-face meetings/attendance will be limited. As a result, portions of LEGCon will be virtual. There will be no meetings with our representatives at all at the Capitol because of the pandemic and security restrictions. Go to the NARFE website for more information about LEGCon21.

2020-2021 NCNARFE Legislative Plan

The plan for NCNARFE has two parts: priorities and implementation. Priorities derive from NARFE's 117th Congress advocacy positions. While all are important, several stand out as critical and it is those for which this plan is developed. Implementation is the manner NCNARFE will carry out those priorities. The plan requires the support of all NCNARFE members, with chapter legislative officers and Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) and Senatorial Liaisons (SLs) playing a special part.

NARFE's 117th Congressional advocacy plan comprises five distinct (but often inter-related) focus areas: Retirement, Federal Pay and Workforce Policy, Health Care, US Postal Service Reform, and other provisions. NCNARFE, whose role in NARFE is to promote to current and potential members within its respective area the aims and objectives of the association...and to lead advocacy efforts within its geographic area, will adhere to NARFE's overall advocacy plan. Hence, the NCNARFE legislative advocacy plan will follow NARFE's overall program, comprising the five major areas. Within each area, NCNARFE will pay special attention to select legislation priorities, understanding that other priorities should be addressed as opportunity arises.

NCNARFE Focus Priorities

Bold=primary

Retirement

1. Changing from the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, to the Consumer Price

Index for the Elderly, CPI-E, to determine annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs)

2. Providing FERS annuitants with a COLA equal to the relevant CPI increase

3. Legislation to repeal the increase in pension contributions of new federal employees

4. Legislation to conform TSP regulations to IRS regulations on other qualified retirement savings plans, such as 401(k).

5. Public disclosure of the fiscal stability of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF)

6. Repeal or reform of the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)

7. Indexing the income threshold for taxation of Social Security Benefits

Federal Pay and Workforce Policies

1. Merit-based civil service

2. Full implementation of federal employee pay parity

3. Legislation granting federal employees in combat zones tax treatment equal to military counterparts

4. Paid parental leave benefits for all federal employees

Health Care

1. Legislation to permit using pretax dollars to pay for health insurance premiums and deposits to Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)

2. Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) Program

a. Contain FEHB costs

b. No reduction in government contributions toward FEHB premiums

c. No expansion of FEHB participation without separate risk pools

d. No requirement for federal prefunding of FEHB premiums for current employees

3. Long-Term Care Insurance

a. Assuring integrity/affordability of Federal Long-term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP)

b. Tax relief for long-term care insurance, family caregiving, and other long-term care expenses

c. Help for individuals who cannot afford long-term care insurance

US Postal Service Reform

1. Legislation to keep small post offices open and to maintain services in place on or before July 2012

2. Legislation to relieve USPS of requirement to prefund future health care obligations

3. Opposition to adding conditions, such as requirement for current postal employees/spouses to enroll in Medicare Part B to continue receiving FEHB benefits

NARFE Legislative Conference /Continued on page 10

Other Provisions

1. Legislation allowing drugs made in the US and other industrialized countries and exported to other such counties to be reimported or imported to the US
2. Reauthorization of and adequate annual appropriations for the Older Americans Act
3. Legislation to reform campaign finance

NCNARFE Legislative Implementation Plan

Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) and Senatorial Liaisons (SLs), in conjunction with chapter legislative officers in their respective districts, will lead NCNARFE legislative efforts. The NCNARFE National Legislative Officer will oversee such efforts and provide assistance as needed.

Currently, both SL positions are filled, as are seven of the 13 CDL positions are filled. These are the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, and 13th Districts. It is imperative for NCNARFE Area Vice Presidents to nominate CDLs for the remaining six positions. CDL/SL responsibility includes, but is not limited to, coordinating chapter and member meetings with our congressional members and their staffs; keeping chapters and members informed of their representative's activities and votes on legislation important to NARFE; and keeping our representatives current on NARFE priorities, especially those that affect NCNARFE members directly. CDL/SLs will make quarterly reports to the NCNARFE Executive Board on their activities and may be reimbursed for any incurred expenses.

Key chapters in each district, Lead Chapters, should work closely with SL/CDLs to ensure their representatives are aware of chapter member concerns. Communication between SL/CDLs and chapters is vital to implement our implementation plan.

National Legislative Officer

Robert Allen
National Legislative Officer

- NARFE-PAC update



NARFE-PAC Update for the 2019-2020 Congressional Cycle

NARFE-PAC, NARFE's political action arm (which is funded solely by member donations and does not come from NARFE funds) works on a two-year cycle that coincides with each Congress, the last being the 116th, which was in session 2019-2020. Below are the statistics for that period. I would encourage you to join NARFE-PAC member (I am) by becoming a sustainer (a minimum \$10/month donation using your credit card) or through one-time gifts. You can find more information about NARE-PAC and how to donate on the NARFE website.

With the support of NARFE members, NARFE-PAC reached many of its goals in the 2019-2020 cycle. NARFE members contributed

\$2,173,897.64, eclipsing the impressive \$1.895 million mark achieved during the 2017-2018 cycle. In response to this increased fundraising, the PAC distributed more support to candidates than it has in past cycles, making **\$1,436,000** in political contributions. This allowed NARFE members and staff to connect with more lawmakers..

Contributions

In the 2019-2020 cycle, **31,966 NARFE members** contributed **\$2,173,897.64** to NARFE-PAC. The **average** contribution was **\$68.01**. Compared to the eighth quarter of the 2017-2018 cycle, total contributions were up \$277,989.63 (from \$1,895,908.01), and the average contribution increased by \$9.14 (from \$58.87). The **total number of contributors** slightly declined to **31,966** (from 32,204).

Disbursements

In the 2019-2020 cycle, NARFE-PAC disbursed \$1,436,000 for political purposes: **\$895,000** to candidates, **\$270,000** to non-candidate committees, and **\$271,000** to leadership PACs. This **exceeds** disbursements from the 2017-18 cycle (\$1,104,250) by **\$331,750**.

Goals Update

NARFE-PAC established ambitious goals and totals for the 2019-2020 cycle.

Raise \$1,750,000: **\$2,173,897.64**

Disburse \$1,250,000 for political contributions: **\$1,436,000**

Send NARFE members to 110 local fundraisers: **111**

Grow monthly giving program (sustainer program) by 20%: **10%**

North Carolina Federation - NARFE

follow us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/ncnarfe>

visit our homepage @ www.ncnarfe.info

SERVICE OFFICER NEWS

Sharrill Jennings
NC Federation Service Officer



- **Avoiding COVID Scams**
- **Other Consumer Tips**

Avoiding COVID-19 Scams

NC Attorney General Josh Stein recently shared information that could help keep you safe from several new scams related to the COVID-19 vaccines. First, the vaccine is free, whether you have health insurance or not. Therefore, the vaccine cannot be sold or mailed to you; vaccines are only given at designated/authorized sites. You/your family member must be in a designated group to make an appointment. You can't buy a place in line.

There are fake websites that resemble legitimate health department or health care provider sites. To be sure the site is OK, look for the lock icon and a URL with https: in the address bar. When signing up online for your appointment, look for a lock icon and a URL beginning with http in the address bar. When registering you never

need to share your bank account or social security number or credit card information. You can keep up on NC's vaccine rollout and how to access your vaccine by going to covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines.

How can you decrease the number of unwanted phone calls? Sign up for the Do Not Call Registry at 1-886-382-1222 or www.donotcall.gov. Also, if you encounter a possible scam or think you've been victimized, contact Consumer Protection at ncdoj.gov/complaint or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

Other Consumer Tips

- Don't respond to unsolicited offers. If it sounds too good to be true, it is.
- Never give out your personal information such as your SSN, credit card, bank account numbers, etc. to anyone you do not know.
- When in doubt about any transaction, pay with a credit card to protect yourself.
- Also, check your credit reports. Everyone is entitled to one free credit report annually from each nation-wide credit bureau. Visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228.

References: message from josh@joshstein.org; info@ncdoj.emailnewsletter.us; Josh Stein Consumer Alert March 2, 2021.

Questions? Need help? Contact me: 910-619-0658 sejennings1@aol.com

National-Only Corner

Vilma Geisert
NCNARFE National-Only Member



- **NARFE Support to Alzheimer's Research**

Hello, out there, National-Only Members! Did you have the opportunity to peruse the January 2021 issue of *The Beacon*, your Federation Newspaper? Time waits for no one, and here it is again, the latest issue!

May I ask what piques your interest? We want to ensure your *Beacon* newspaper covers news in which you are interested! To do so, we need to hear from you.

We realize *The Beacon* needs to update its content to embrace National-Only members as well as Chapter members, as each cohort is vital to NARFE's existence. This, of course, is a new undertaking because for many years Chapters were the focus of NARFE. This has turned around, and your *Beacon* newspaper is asking for your input.

Please, email or mail your interests to be reviewed for inclusion in the next *Beacon*.



Resolution Honoring NARFE's 100th Anniversary Introduced in Congress

On February 19, 2021, NARFE celebrated its 100th anniversary, marking a century of defending and advancing policies to protect the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.

To honor this milestone, Reps. Gerry Connolly, D-VA, and Brian Fitzpatrick, R-PA, introduced [H.Res. 131](#) to congratulate NARFE and acknowledge the vital contributions its members have made to the United States since 1921. Sens. Ben Cardin, D-MD, and James Lankford, R-OK, are expected to introduce a companion resolution in the Senate this week.

Visit NARFE's [Legislative Action Center](#) to contact your Representative and encourage them to cosponsor the resolution. [READ MORE](#)

PUBLIC RELATIONS NEWS

Dwight Weaver
Public Relations Officer



- How Important is NARFE to You?

How important is NARFE to you?

How important is NARFE to you?

Important enough for you to raise your hand and:

- Get involved as a member of a Federation committee?
- Run for the Board?
- Become involved in legislative advocacy in your Congressional District?

WEBMASTER NEWS

Peter Eckhoff
NC Federation Webmaster



- The Wave of the Future?

Driving Electric

I'm sort of a geek. I love what technology can bring us, from visuals of weather patterns from orbiting satellites to electric vehicles to vaccines that can ward off a pandemic. I've been driving an electric car for 3 years. I own a Chevy Bolt, which my son uses as a daily driver, and a Tesla Model 3. I ****love**** driving electric. The torque available for a quick acceleration uphill onto a freeway from a dead stop is exhilarating. I have no fear about not coming up to speed and merging. I love it!!

The Bolt is the Premier edition and it has sensors that warn me of approaching traffic, whether it be a pedestrian or an coming vehicle. This is especially useful when backing out of a parking space with towering SUVs on either side. The Model 3 does not have that sensing capability.

The other major difference is that the Model 3 wants to take control as "it knows better," while the Bolt presents warning messages and lets me as the driver decide what to do. I prefer the Bolt (GM's philosophy over the Tesla philosophy). Like Tesla's founder, the Model 3 can sometimes be mercurial and these quirks can come as a surprise. I think Tesla's

- Help with new member recruitment?
- Assist others members?

Or, if you are affiliated with a Chapter, to volunteer for a chapter leadership role?

I recently reviewed the 2021-22 Legislative Plan and was a bit surprised to see that all of the Federation's Congressional District Liasons (CDL) are also Board Members or members of a Federation committee.

The same is true if you look at who is serving in leadership roles in our decreasing number of Chapters. Those folks have been in those roles for extended periods of time and also serve in other Federation leadership roles.

The NC Federation needs volunteers who are willing to help. So much of the work is being done by an increasingly small core group of our membership.

How important is NARFE to you ..important enough to get involved?

For the future of NARFE and what it means to so many "Feds", I hope so.

learning to fix them but still, when driving, I don't like surprised.

For recharging, I use household current and whenever I come home, I plug in. It takes me all of 20 seconds. There is never a line like there can be at the gas pumps. The screen in the car says it will take 10 hours but that 10 hours is overnight. I've never had a feeling of needing a faster charge at home. I've always had enough residual capacity to go anywhere I needed to go. The idea of range limitation for driving around town is non-existent.

Long range is the other issue that is frequently mentioned. Do you worry about running out of gasoline? Of course not! You know where the gasoline stations are; they're everywhere. Not so with Electric Vehicles, BUT with a car like the Tesla Model 3, I do a lot of "what ifing". My favorite scenario is to see a prehistoric footprint of a dog at Ashfall Fossil Bed State Park in Nebraska. This park is in the middle of nowhere where the nearest town, Norfolk, is in the middle of nowhere. I can use the Supercharger stations to get close and stay overnight in Norfolk and use a level-2 charger (25 miles per hour) to recharge, make it to Ashfall, and then to a Supercharger station further on. I feel confident that I can drive to see a dog footprint in the middle of nowhere. Some folks have driven to the Arctic Ocean electrically.

The other thing about recharging on the road is that with a range of 324 miles, you as a driver or passenger will need to stop and refresh. We have done this several times where we stop at a Supercharging Station, plug in, go to the restrooms, order meals, eat, talk for a few minutes, dispose of our meal waste, unplug, and we're fully recharged and on our way. In the future, I expect this to go faster.

If you ever have the chance to drive electric, I would take it and embrace it. **It is the future.**

North Carolina
Federation - NARFE

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NCNARFE ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Vivian Vair
NCNARFE Alzheimer's Coordinator



- **Predicting Alzheimer's?**

New Study indicates possibility of predicting Alzheimers


A study conducted by IBM researchers indicates that writing patterns in our early years, as well as distinctive language patterns, may serve as early warning signs of Alzheimer's and/or other neurological illnesses. The study identified a group of subjects who were more repetitive in their word usage, made errors, such as spelling words wrong or inappropriately capitalizing them, and used simple


grammatical structure missing subjects and words like "the", "is", and "are". The members of that group turned out to be the people who developed Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's researchers were intrigued, saying that when there are ways to slow or stop the illness – a goal that so far remains elusive – it will be important to have simple tests that can warn, early on, that without intervention a person will develop the progressive brain disease.

NARFE's contributions to the Alzheimer's Association Research Program supports research studies that may help in the prevention or treatment of dreaded disease, and for the present, offers support to caregivers of those stricken with Alzheimer's. So, we need to continue to give towards our current goal of 14 million dollars to support this research.

Send your contributions to the NC Federation's Alzheimer's Coordinator... Vivian Vair, 620 E Cannon Ave, Albemarle, NC 28001. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Vivian at 704-984-6765.





Join NARFE's CENTURY CLUB
 With Your Donation of \$100 or More in 2021


Help NARFE celebrate 100 years of fighting for the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.

Please consider donating \$100 or more in 2021 to NARFE's Centennial Fundraising Campaign.

[Click here to donate](#)


With NARFE's thanks, you will receive:

- A commemorative NARFE Centennial key ring
- Recognition in the December *NARFE Magazine*, on NARFE.org and at NARFE headquarters
- Early distribution of the 2022 NARFE Calendar



All donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and will be recognized on NARFE.org.

Donations to NARFE are not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes.



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	Single Issue	1/2 Year (3 Issues)	Full Year (6 Issues)
1/4 Page	\$85	\$240	\$460
1/2 Page	\$160	\$450	\$850
Full Page	\$300	\$850	\$1,600

Advertisements must be submitted to the Federation Editor in JPEG or PDF format. The Editor will provide return notification regarding acceptance of ad for publication, at which time payment in full for the advertisement must be sent to Sam Crain, the Federation Treasurer, at 290 Azalea Drive, Maggie Valley, NC 28751-7692, check payable to NCNARFE Federation. The Treasurer must receive payments the month before ads appear in *The Beacon*. The Editor must receive all ad changes three weeks before publication.

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The Federation Executive Board has final ad approval and for just cause may not accept advertisements deemed inappropriate. Questions? Please email the Editor.

**The rates above reflect the advertisement pricing approved by the NCNARFE Federation Executive Board in December 2020.

Coming Events		
NCNARFE Federation Executive Board Mtg	May 11	Virtual
NCNARFE Annual Meeting	May 12	NC via GoToWebinar
Memorial Day	May 31	United States
NARFE Legislative Conference	June 21-22	Washington, DC
NARFE Centennial Gala	June 21	Washington, DC

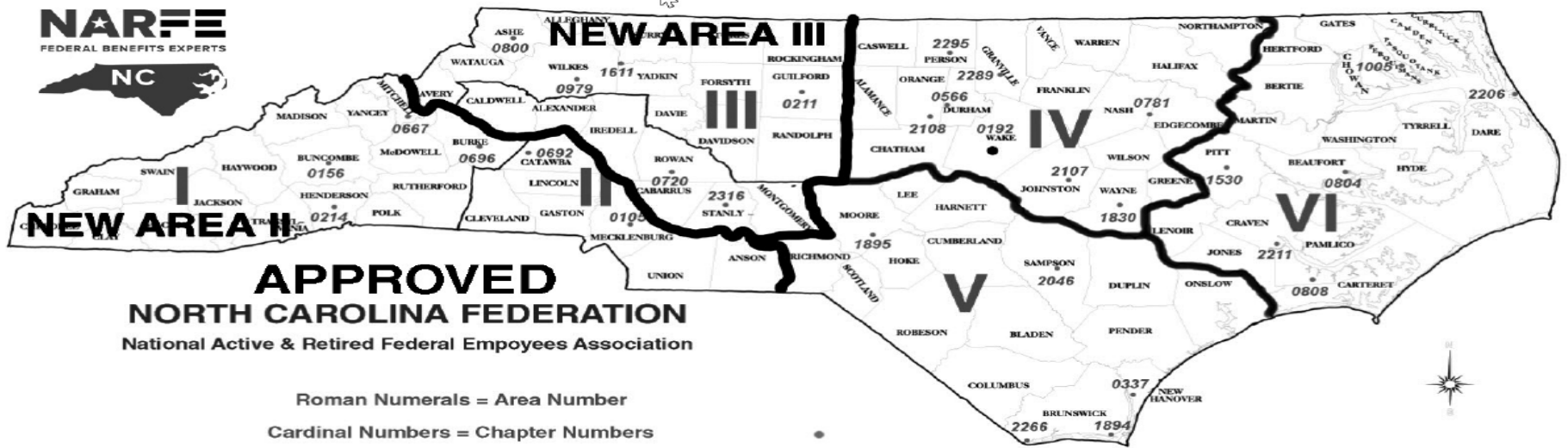


SAVE THE DATE!

65TH NCNARFE ANNUAL MEETING WEBINAR
 MAY 12, 2021
 FREE

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS
 MARCH 15, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA AREAS & CHAPTER LOCATIONS



North Carolina Federation Chapters And Presidents

Chap.	Area	Name	President	Telephone
0105	I-II	Charlotte	Bobbie Williams	(323) 557-5056
0192	IV	Raleigh	James Dukeman	(919) 362-9252
0211	III	Piedmont Triad	Deborah Germak	(609) 226-4297
0214	I-II	Hendersonville	Mark Brown	(828) 890-8235
0337	V	Wilmington	Tom Jennings	(910) 619-0762
0566	IV	Durham	Carolyn London/Tom Link	(919) 489-4228
0667	I-II	Marion	Johnny Hensley	(828) 682-6894
0692	I-II	Hickory	Dawn Price	(828) 428-0202
0696	I-II	Burke County	Walter Coenen	(828) 433-7336
0720	III	Salisbury	David Phillips	(704) 431-4134
0781	IV	Rocky Mount	Mattie Mooring	(252) 641-6884
0800	III	Ashe-Alleghany	Charles Caudill	(336) 846-7498
0804	VI	Washington	Barry Beckman	(252) 923-9933
0808	VI	New Bern	Marshall Williams	(252) 637-6300
0979	III	Wilkes	James Adams	(336) 957-2815
1005	VI	Albemarle	James Sears	(252) 357-1599
1530	VI	Pitt County-Greenville	Nancy Batchelor	(252) 795-0400
1611	III	Surry-Yadkin	Randall Weatherman	(336) 835-3402
1830	IV	Wayne-Goldsboro	Harry Senatz	(919) 222-5171
1894	V	Brunswick County	Julia Wheeler	(910) 846-4714
1895	V	Sandhills	Richard Benjamin	(317) 902-1491
2046	V	Sampson-Duplin	Carolyn Bronson	(910) 592-6726
2107	IV	Johnston County	Evelyn Ellis	(919) 284-1545
2108	IV	Pearl S. Wright-Chapel Hill	Walter Mack	(919) 797-2246
2206	VI	First Flight-Kill Devil Hills	David Monell	(252) 441-7482
2266	V	Intracoastal	James Kocsi	(910) 287-5452
2289	IV	Henderson	Richard Pulsifer	(919) 603-3744
2295	IV	Person-Caswell	Robert Allen	(336) 322-0259
2316	III	Stanly County-Albemarle	Steven Kesselman	(704) 982-6754

2020 – 2022 North Carolina NARFE Board

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